



HF Happenings 385

December 2009

HF Happenings via Yahoo Groups HF_Happenings-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

South African Radio League Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1



The HF Happenings team would like to wish you and your loved ones a very Blessed Christmas. May the true meaning of Christmas be part of your family gatherings.

My family, Pieter (son-in-law), Michelle (soon to be a mother) and Chantelle would like to wish all HF Happenings readers a very Happy Holiday, Merry Christmas and Season's Greetings. It is a sad time for us, as it is the first Christmas without my late wife, Willa.

To my many Jewish and Moslem friends, who also celebrate festivals in this time, I would also like to wish all of the best.

SARL HF Field Day

Last week I was down at the mouth of the Great Fish River [KF36nm] and published the provisional results of the second leg of the SARL HF Field Day. I did not have the results of the first leg with me and could not include those details in HF Happenings 384.

I received a further paper log, I have been told that the original was posted using snail mail and fast mail, but nothing has appeared in Box 12104, Brandhof. Until proof of posting can be provided, this log will be treated as a check log. To date three paper logs were received - one from Theunis, ZS2EC, and two from Jan, ZS4JAN (1 by ordinary mail and 1 by fast mail).

High Power

- 1st Pretoria ARC, ZS6PTA, 30 488 points, MO field
- 2nd Cape Town ARS, ZS1CT, 19 944 points, MO field
- 3rd Zululand ARC, ZS5ZLB, 19 542 points, MO field
- 4th Magalies ARK, ZS6MRK, 18 012 points, MO field
- 5th Tienie Herbst, ZS6MHH, 15 348 points, SO field
- 6th Midlands and Highway ARC, ZS5PMB, 14 964 points, MO field
- 7th Francois Muller, ZS6M, 13 760 points, SO field
- 8th Bradley Glen, ZS5BG, 5 016 points, General station
- 9th Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC, 3 972 points, General station
- 10th Pieter Bosman, ZS3AOR, 3 504 points, General station
- 11th Johan de Wit, ZR5JF, 3 328 points, SO field

Low Power

- 1st West Rand ARC, ZS6WR, 142 024 points, MO field
- 2nd Boland ARC, ZS1TB, 132 240 points, MO field
- 3rd Sandton ARC, ZS6STN, 75 952 points, MO field

December

ZS10WCS operated by the East Rand ARC

- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Family Day
- 26/27 Stew Perry Top band contest
- 31 End of 2009 CQ DX Marathon

January 2010

ZS10WCS operated by the Vrystaat ARC

- 1 New Year's Day, start of 2010 CQ DX Marathon
- 2/3 ARRL RTTY roundup
- 13 Schools open
- 15-17 PEARS VHF/UHF Contest
- 23 SMT course, Cape Town
- 27 SARL Club Phone Contest
- 29-31 CQ WW 160 m CW contest
- 31 Closing date AGM Motions

Merry Christmas





- 4th Highway ARC, ZS5HAM, 61 048 points, MO field
- 5th Sasolburg ARC, ZS4SRK, 38 904 points, MO field
- 6th Philip Esterhuizen, ZU4PE, 33 096 points, General station
- 7th Mitchel Mynhardt, ZU6M, 26 224, points, General station
- 8th Hibiscus Coast ARC, ZS5HAC, 24 072 points, MO field
- 9th Jan Coetzee, ZS5JC, 19 080 points, MO field
- 10th Warren Snyders, ZR5WOZ, 17 904 points, General station
- 11th Oakdale ARC, ZS1OAK, 16 632 points, MO field
- 12th Bloemfontein RAC, ZS4BFN, 2 760 points, MO field

QRP

- 1st Jan Botha, ZS4JAN, 208 812 points, SO field
- 2nd Pieter Jacobs, ZS6XT, 78 954 points, General station
- 3rd Pierre van Deventer, ZS6BB, 38 052 points, SO field

Check logs

Lichtenburg ARC, ZS6LRK
Stephanus Blignault, ZS6XB
Philip Esterhuizen, ZS4PJ

Why does your claimed score sometimes differ from the score published? Well sometimes, you forget to mark those duplicate contacts. Alternatively, you have what I call "the fat finger problem" - you ear and brain heard 59G, but your finger typed 59S (and when you worked him on 80 and 160 you typed 59G.) Alternatively, your typed ZR4LP when it should have been ZR4LP/6, or ZR3TG instead of ZS3TG - there is no ZR3TG - the SARL database says, "No such call sign found."

It has also been found that you have not read the rules and forgot to count the zones worked per band, or you did not add up correctly.

Vintage Radio

I am sure there are some of the readers who associated the words "Vintage Radio" with the announcer Wallace Greenslade of the BBC and Harry Secombe, Spike Milligan and Peter Sellers of the highly esteemed Goon Show.

Well not in this case. I received an article from Gerry O'Hara, G8GUH/VE7GUH, for Radio ZS. And in our e-mail correspondence he sent me a copy of the Canadian Vintage Radio Society's newsletter for June and October 2009. I have just received the December issue of the CVRS newsletter.

I have uploaded all three issues to the HF Happenings web page, but some readers mention that they cannot access the page. I will upload the newsletters to the Bloemfontein RAC web site when I am back home and notify everybody of the address.

Something for the VHFers

Tropospheric Scatter Propagation. Mike Bosch, ZS2FM, reports "The number of signal reports received of the new 50,006 MHz FSK beacon in the past two weeks, have indicated that TROPO Scatter is present in many parts of the RSA; this was a real surprise. The Argo, Spectran and





WJST waterfall images received proved beyond any doubt that at times weak Tropospheric scatter propagation was present with deep QSB. Meteor Scatter bursts also appeared intermittently but were of short duration and decayed quickly.

Whenever Tropo Scatter is present, Tropo enhancement can also take place during favourable weather conditions; this would result in audible and strong band openings. These temperature inversions could occur ahead of approaching cold fronts, large high-pressure systems etc. Thanks to the 6 metre beacons we can now learn more about inland Tropo conditions which could provide many long distance contacts especially on 144 MHz band, followed by 70 MHz and 50 MHz in that order.

Watch the beacons and give it a go."

DXCC News

2009 DXCC Yearbook Final Reminder

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager, reports: "Just a last-minute final reminder that if you have not made your 2009 submission, you must make a submission in order to appear in the next yearbook. The submission must be postmarked on or by 31 December 2009.

If you are current on the DXCC Honour Roll, minimum of 329 'current' DXCC entities, you will automatically be listed and you DO NOT need to make a submission. However, if you are not current on the Honour Roll you must make a submission in order to be listed.

In addition, in order for an award to appear in the Annual List, first the award must be 'active' (meaning you must have a certificate). Just qualifying for an award does not mean it will appear.

Also, for an active award to appear your total on that category **MUST** increase by at least one point. (eg: If you had 300 in 2008 for 10 metres and in 2009 your number remaining at 300, the 10 metre listing will not appear in the Annual List. However, if your number increased to, at least 301, then your active award will appear.

In addition, only ARRL members (during the 2009 calendar year) receive the free copy. (The cost of the yearbook is to be determined soon). The 2009 DXCC Yearbook will now be handled as an official ARRL publication that will no longer be handled by the DXCC Branch directly. Orders for the yearbook will now be available only via the ARRL catalogue. (This will not affect those who qualify for the free copy). Send questions to dxcc@arrl.org"

Pirate Alert

Nenad, VE3EXY, reports that a station signing C31LJ/M between 8 and 9 December was a PIRATE. Peter was not in Andorra. He also mentioned that this was the second PIRATED C31LJ operation this year.

DX from Africa

Nigeria, 5N. Tony, LZ1JZ, wants to remind everyone that Nick, LZ1QK, has been active as 5N/LZ1QK since October 2008. During his stay, Nick has received/used four different call signs from different locations (5N3LQK, 5N3WQK, 5N4LQK and 5N4WQK). Next year he will operate under the special call sign 5N50K to celebrate the 50th anniversary of independence of Nigeria. His QSL Manager is LZ1CL - Vassil Shatarov, PO Box 185, Plovdiv 4000, Bulgaria.

Added Note: Currently, QSLs for 5N/LZ1QK and his other operations are momentarily not accepted for DXCC credit because the DXCC Desk has not received documentations yet.





Special Event Stations

Australia. Bob Bristow, VK6POP, the JOTA-JOTI Coordinator for Scouts Australia, reports that the 22nd Australian Jamboree (AJ2010) will happen at Cataract Scout Park from 4 - 14 January 2010. The special call sign VI2AJ2010 will be in use for the duration of the Jamboree.

The Fisher's Ghost ARC, who utilises and maintains the Amateur radio shack at Cataract Scout Park, provides the Amateur Radio activity at AJ2010.

You may contact Wal Kelly, VK2ZWK, on email wal-lynn@cybercentral.com.au to arrange a sked, or call on the IRLP node. The plan is for the station to be on air 22:00 to 11:00 UTC on 80 to 6 m plus 2m and 70 cm with a simplex link on 145.400 with IRLP node 6111. On HF, they will operate around the JOTA calling frequencies. Look out for them on the clusters.

Scotland, GS. Year Long Special Event - Yaesu Heritage Year 2010. Just a reminder and update to look for the special event call sign GS2MP (club call sign of the North of Scotland Contest Group - GM7V) during 2010.

Operators Chris, GM3WOJ/ZL1CT, and Jim, GMONAI, will be operating their vintage Yaesu transmitters/receivers and transceivers during the whole year. Each calendar month they will use a different Yaesu radio, and amateurs worldwide are invited to work GS2MP and earn points towards the "Yaesu Heritage Year Award."

Operation will mostly be on 40 and 20 metres, SSB and CW, using classic radios like the FT-DX-100 (original), FT-200, FT-DX-401, etc. Yaesu (UK) Ltd are kindly sponsoring the event by supplying special QSL cards, small trophies and a special prize to the overall 'winner' of this year-long fun event.

In January 2010, Chris, GM3WOJ, will start by using an FT-200 transceiver. For more details, please visit the following web site for some photos of the vintage radios at <http://www.gm7v.com/yaesu2010.htm>

TAPR's PSR Journal Fall Issue is now On-Line [Fall = Autumn]

TAPR's PSR Journal Fall Issue is now On-Line at <http://www.tapr.org/psr/psr109.pdf>. TAPR is chartered in the State of Arizona for the purpose of designing and developing new systems for digital radio communication in the Amateur Radio Service, and for disseminating information required, during, and obtained from such research.

All PSR issues are now online says Stan Horzempa, WA1LOU. All current and back issues of TAPR's quarterly newsletter, Packet Status Register (PSR), are now online and accessible at www.tapr.org/psr. The newsletters are in Adobe Acrobat format. Thanks to John Ackermann, N8UR, Phil Karn, KA9Q, John Koster, W9DDD, and Darryl Smith, VK2TDS, for helping to fill in the gaps in the collection.

By the way, we can automatically notify you by e-mail whenever a new issue of PSR is available for downloading by signing up here <https://www.tapr.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/psr-announce>

And we can automatically e-mail new issues of PSR to you whenever a new issue is available by signing up here <https://www.tapr.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/psr-pdf>

TAPR Twitter. TAPR set-up a Twitter account for TAPR to keep TAPR members and digital enthusiasts aware of TAPR's events & activities. The TAPR Twitter account can be accessed at <http://www.twitter.com/taprdigital>





CW operator needed for rare IOTA DXpedition

An experienced CW operator is needed for rare IOTA DXpedition. An international group of operators will be active as 3W6C from Con Co Island, Vietnam which is IOTA reference AS-185, between 10 and 18 April. The DXpedition has an opening for one additional experienced CW operator.

Full details about the DXpedition are available at www.3w6c.qrv.ch. Interested operators are requested to send details about background and DXing experience to Hans-Peter by email to hb9bx@3w6c.qrv.ch.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 21 to 28 December 2009

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party
00:01 UTC 19 December to 23:59 UTC 3 January

Mode: Any

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Members: Member No, name, state, province or country; Non-Members: Serial No, name and state, province or country; Lighthouse/Lightship: ARHLS No, name and state, province or country

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 2 additional points per QSO with member; 3 additional points per QSO with lighthouse/lightship; Bonus: x2 multiplier for all points if participant activated a lighthouse or lightship

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 31 January 2010

E-mail logs to: (none)

Mail logs to: Dave Ruch, NF0J, PO Box 20696, Bloomington, MN 55420-0696, USA

Find rules at:

<http://arlhs.com/LCL-2009-guidelines.html>

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

02:00 - 04:00 UTC 21 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Band; All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and Member No or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 27 December 2009

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at:

<http://www.fpqrp.com/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.fpqrp.com/fpqrprun.php>

SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 23 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, Name, state, province or country and SKCC No or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member

QSO per band; Bonus Points: 10 points per

Tribune member QSO per band; Bonus





Points: 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 25 December 2009

E-mail log summary to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/sks-submit.html>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/>

DARC Christmas Contest

08:30 UTC-10:59 UTC 26 December

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40 m

Classes: Single Op Mixed - DL - Low or High;

Single Op Mixed - non-DL; Single Op CW -

DL - Low or High; Single Op CW - non-DL

Max operating hours: 2,5 hours

Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: <=100 W

Exchange: DL: RS(T), DOK or Special Station abbreviation; non-DL: RS(T) and QSO No

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point

Multipliers: DOK/Special Stations, once per band; Prefixes, once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (total DOK/Special Station mults and total prefix mults)

Submit logs by: 12 January 2010

E-mail logs to:

[xmas\[at\]dxhf\[dot\]darc\[dot\]de](mailto:xmas[at]dxhf[dot]darc[dot]de)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

www.darc.de/referate/dx/xedcxr.htm

South Dakota QSO Party

12:00 UTC 26 December to 12:00 UTC 27 December

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Bands: All, except WARC

Classes: South Dakota Fixed; South Dakota

Mobile; South Dakota QRP; Outside South

Dakota; Outside South Dakota QRP

Exchange: SD: RS(T) and county; non-SD: RS(T) and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per county

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points

per CW QSO; 3 points per digital QSO

Multipliers: SD: Each state, province, or county once per band per mode; non-SD:

Each SD county once per band per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 28 January 2010

E-mail logs to: [K7RE\[at\]arrl\[dot\]net](mailto:K7RE[at]arrl[dot]net)

Mail logs to: SD QSO Party Entry, 10559

West Hwy 14, Spearfish, SD 57783, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.w0blk.org/files/rules.pdf>

Stew Perry Topband Challenge

15:00 UTC 26 December to 15:00 UTC 27 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op

Max operating hours: 14 hours

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 5 - 100 watts; QRP: <5 watts

Exchange: 4-Character grid square

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO plus 1 point per 500 km; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station

Multipliers: Low power: x1,5; QRP: x3

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x power multiplier

Submit logs by: 31 January 2010

E-mail logs to: [tbdx\[at\]contesting\[dot\]com](mailto:tbdx[at]contesting[dot]com)

Mail logs to: BARC, 15125 SE Bartell Rd, Bor-
ing, OR 97009, USA

Find rules at:

<http://jzap.com/k7rat/stew.rules.txt>

PODXS 070 Club QRP DX Scramble

00:00 UTC-24:00 UTC 27 December

Mode: PSK31

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: Name and DX entity

QSO Points: 1 point/QSO

Multipliers: Each DX entity (see rules)





Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults points
Submit logs by: 27 January 2010
E-mail logs to: n3dqu[at]yahoo[dot]com
Mail logs to: Jay Budzowski, N3DQU, 070 Club QRP DX Scramble, 109 S. Northview Ave., New Castle, PA 16102-1633, USA
Find rules at:
<http://www.podxs070.com/qrp-dx-scramble>

RAEM Contest
02:00 - 09:59 UTC 27 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - Low or High; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single; SWL
Max operating hours: 8 hours
Exchange: Serial No, latitude (degs only) and longitude (degs only) N=North, S=South, W=West, O=East (e.g. 57N 85O)

Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 50 points and 1 point for every degree difference in geo location, both latitude and longitude; QSO with Polar station: 100 points additional; QSO with RAEM Memorial Station: 300 points additional
Multipliers: Polar stations multiply total QSO points by 1.1
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 26 January 2010
E-mail logs to: raem[at]srr[dot]ru
Mail logs to: Alex Pashkov, PO Box 177, Novosibirsk 630032, Russia
Find rules at:
http://raem.qrz.ru/contest/raem_2009/rules_eng_2009.php

Next Week's Contests

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party, 00:01 UTC 19 December to 23:59 UTC 3 January
AGB New Year Snowball Contest, 00:00 - 01:00 UTC 1 January
SARTG New Year RTTY Contest, 08:00 - 11:00 UTC 1 January
AGCW Happy New Year Contest, 09:00 - 12:00 UTC 1 January
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest, 16:00 - 19:00 UTC 1 January (144); 19:00 - 21:00 UTC 1 January (432)
Original QRP Contest, 15:00 UTC 2 January to 15:00 UTC 3 January
ARRL RTTY Roundup, 18:00 UTC 2 January to 24:00 UTC 3 January
EUCW 160m Contest, 20:00 - 23:00 UTC 2 January 04:00 - 07:00 UTC 3 January
Kid's Day Contest, 18:00 - 24:00 UTC 3 January
RSGB 80 m CW Club Championship, 20:00 - 21:30 UTC 4 January
ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 5 January

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, Q-News, the RSGB News, Maurice, F5NQL, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.

Newsletter editors are most welcome to use material from HF Happenings, just remember to acknowledge the source (which could be any one of the names mentioned above). HF Happenings can be provided in MS Word format.

